

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of identifying a range of patent eligible aspects of an invention from among a plurality of invention types and a plurality of life cycle aspects, the method comprising:
 - a) selecting a selected pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;
 - b) working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said selected pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention;
 - c) iterating steps (a) and (b) a plurality of times for differing selected pairs of ones of said plurality of invention types and ones of said plurality of life cycle aspects so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention, said differing selected pairs differing from one another and from said selected pair of step (a); and
 - d) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.
2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises at least one of the following:
 - a) drawing a picture of said invention;
 - b) defining elements of said picture;
 - c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
 - d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
 - e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
 - f) defining technology used by said invention;
 - g) defining products created by said invention; and
 - h) defining a science needed to support said technology.
3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein said invention includes broad aspects and narrow aspects and step (b) comprises:
 - a) asking "why" type questions leading to said broad aspects of said invention; and
 - b) asking "how" questions leading to said narrow aspects of said invention.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3 wherein said ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and wherein asking said "why" type questions leads to a business problem of said invention.
5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3 wherein said ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and wherein asking said "how" questions leads to a scientific problem of said invention.
6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.
7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of life-cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product of process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.
8. **(Currently Amended)** A method of identifying a range of patent eligible aspects of an invention from among a plurality of invention types and a plurality of life cycle aspects, the method comprising:
 - a) selecting a ~~selected~~-pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;
 - b) working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said ~~selected~~-pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention;
 - c) iterating steps (a) and (b) holding said one of said plurality of life cycle aspects constant and exhausting all of said plurality of invention types so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention; and
 - d) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.
9. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 8 wherein said plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.
10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 8 wherein step (b) comprises at least one of the following:

- a) drawing a picture of said invention;
- b) defining elements of said picture;
- c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
- d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
- e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
- f) defining technology used by said invention;
- g) defining products created by said invention; and
- h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 8 wherein said plurality of life cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method of identifying a range of patent eligible aspects of an invention from among a plurality of invention types and a plurality of life cycle aspects, the method comprising:

- a) selecting a selected-pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;
- b) working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said selected-pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention;
- c) iterating steps (a) and (b) holding said one of said plurality of invention types constant and exhausting all of said plurality of life cycle aspects so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention; and
- d) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects;.

wherein said plurality of life cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 13 wherein step (b) comprises asking a question of what a supplier who supplies a product or a process to said invention may do with said invention once said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question defines an improvement to said invention.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 13 wherein step (b) comprises asking a question of what a user who uses said invention may do with said invention once said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question defines an extended invention of said invention.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 13 wherein step (b) comprises at least one of the following:

- a) drawing a picture of said invention;
- b) defining elements of said picture;
- c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
- d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
- e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
- f) defining technology used by said invention;
- g) defining products created by said invention; and
- h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 13 wherein said plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 further comprising:

- e) selecting a new invention type different from said one of said plurality of invention types selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
- f) iterating said steps (b) and (c); and
- g) iterating steps (e) and (f) until all of said plurality of invention types are exhausted.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 further comprising:

- e) selecting a new life cycle aspect of said invention different from said one of said plurality of life cycle aspects selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
- f) iterating said steps (b) and (c); and
- g) iterating steps (e) and (f) until all of said plurality of life cycle aspects are covered.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 8 further comprising:

- e) selecting a new life cycle aspect of said invention different from said one of said plurality of invention types selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
- f) iterating steps (b) and (c); and
- g) iterating steps (d) and (f) until all of said plurality of life cycle aspects are exhausted.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 13 further comprising:

- e) selecting a new invention type different from said one of said plurality of invention types selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
- f) iterating steps (b) and (c); and
- g) iterating steps (e) and (f) until all of said plurality of invention types are exhausted.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A method of identifying a range of patent eligible aspects of an invention from a plurality of invention types and a plurality of life cycle aspects of said invention, the method comprising:

- a) selecting a selected-pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;
- b) working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said selected-pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention, said differing selected pairs differing from one another and from said selected-pair of step (a);
- c) iterating steps (a) and (b) a plurality of times for differing selected pairs of ones of said plurality of invention types and ones of said plurality of life cycle aspects so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention, said differing selected pairs differing from one another and from said selected-pair of step (a);
- d) selecting a new invention type different from said one of said plurality of invention types selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
- e) iterating steps (b) and (c);
- f) iterating steps (d) and (e) until all of said plurality of invention types are exhausted; and

g) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 22 wherein step (b) comprises at least one of the following:

- a) drawing a picture of said invention;
- b) defining elements of said picture;
- c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
- d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
- e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
- f) defining technology used by said invention;
- g) defining products created by said invention; and
- h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 22 wherein said invention includes broad aspects and narrow aspects and step (b) comprises:

- a) asking "why" type questions leading to said broad aspects of said invention; and
- b) asking "how" questions leading to said narrow aspects of said invention.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 24 wherein said ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and wherein asking said "why" type questions leads to a business problem of said invention.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 24 wherein said ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem and wherein asking said "how" questions leads to a scientific problem of said invention.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 22 wherein said plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.

28. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 22 wherein said plurality of life-cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.

29. **(Currently Amended)** A method of identifying a range of patent eligible aspects of an invention from among a plurality of invention types and a plurality of life cycle aspects, the method comprising:

- a) selecting a selected-pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;
- b) working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said selected-pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention;
- c) iterating steps (a) and (b) holding said one of said plurality of life cycle aspects constant and exhausting all of said plurality of invention types so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention;
- d) selecting a new life cycle aspect of said invention different from said one of said plurality of life cycle aspects selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
- e) iterating steps (b) and (c);
- f) iterating steps (d) and (e) until all of said plurality of life cycle aspects are exhausted; and
- g) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 29 wherein step (b) comprises at least one of the following:

- a) drawing a picture of said invention;
- b) defining elements of said picture;
- c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
- d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
- e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
- f) defining technology used by said invention;
- g) defining products created by said invention; and
- h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 29 wherein said plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 29 wherein said plurality of life-cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 29 wherein step (b) comprises asking a question of what a supplier who supplies a product or a process to said invention may do with said invention once said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question defines an improvement to said invention.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 29 wherein step (b) comprises asking a question of what a user who uses said invention may do with said invention once said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question defines an extended invention of said invention.

35. **(Currently Amended)** A method of identifying a range of patent eligible aspects of an invention from a plurality of invention types and a plurality of life cycle aspects of said invention, the method comprising:

- a) selecting a ~~selected~~-pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;
- b) working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said ~~selected~~-pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention;
- c) iterating steps (a) and (b) holding said one of said plurality of invention types constant and exhausting all of said plurality of life cycle aspects so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention;
- d) selecting a new invention type of said invention different from said one of said plurality of invention types selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
- e) iterating steps (b) and (c);
- f) iterating steps (d) and (e) until all of said plurality of invention types are covered; and
- g) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.

36. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 35 wherein step (b) comprises at least one of the following:

- a) drawing a picture of said invention;
- b) defining elements of said picture;
- c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
- d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
- e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
- f) defining technology used by said invention;
- g) defining products created by said invention; and
- h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 35 wherein said invention includes broad aspects and narrow aspects and step (b) comprises:

- a) asking "why" type questions leading to broad aspects of said invention; and
- b) asking "how" questions leading to narrow aspects of said invention.

38. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 37 wherein said ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and wherein asking said "why" type questions leads to a business problem of said invention.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 37 wherein said ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and wherein asking said "how" questions leads to a scientific problem of said invention.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 35 wherein said plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.

41. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 35 wherein said plurality of life-cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.

42. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 35 wherein step (b) comprises asking a question of what a supplier who supplies a product or a process to said invention may do with said invention once said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question defines an improvement to said invention.

43. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 35 wherein step (b) comprises asking a question of what a user who uses said invention may do with said invention once said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question defines an extended invention of said invention.

44. **(Currently Amended)** A method of identifying a full range of patent eligible aspects of an invention from a plurality of invention-types and a plurality of life cycle aspects, the method comprising:

- a) selecting a selected pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;
- b) working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said selected pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention;
- c) iterating steps (a) and (b) holding said one of said plurality of invention types constant and exhausting all of said plurality of life cycle aspects so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention;
- d) selecting a new invention type different from said one of said plurality of invention types selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
- e) iterating steps (b) and (c);
- f) iterating steps (d) and (e) until said plurality of invention types are exhausted;
- g) selecting a new life cycle aspect different from said one of said plurality of life cycle aspects selected in step (a) so as to create yet another selected pair;
- h) iterating steps (b) through (g) until said plurality of life cycle aspects are covered; and
- i) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.

45. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 44 wherein step (b) comprises at least one of the following:

- a) drawing a picture of said invention;
- b) defining elements of said picture;
- c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
- d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
- e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;

- f) defining technology used by said invention;
- g) defining products created by said invention; and
- h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

46. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 44 wherein said invention includes broad aspects and narrow aspects and step (b) comprises:

- a) asking "why" type questions leading to broad aspects of said invention; and
- b) asking "how" questions leading to narrow aspects of said invention.

47. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 46 wherein said ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and wherein asking said "why" type questions leads to a business problem of said invention.

48. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 46 wherein said ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and wherein asking said "how" questions leads to a scientific problem of said invention.

49. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 44 wherein said plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.

50. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 44 wherein said plurality of life cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.

51. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 44 wherein step (b) comprises asking a question of what a supplier who supplies a product or a process to said invention may do with said invention once said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question defines an improvement to said invention.

52. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 44 wherein step (b) comprises asking a question of what a user who uses said invention may do with said invention once said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question defines an extended invention of said invention.

53. **(Withdrawn)** A method of training an inventor in identifying a full range of patentable aspects of an invention, the method comprising:

- a) educating said inventor on what constitutes a patentable invention;
- b) educating said inventor on patentable invention subject matter concepts;
- c) educating said inventor on what constitutes an invention type wherein said invention type is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process;
- e) educating said inventor on what constitutes an invention life cycle aspect wherein said life cycle aspect of said invention comprises one of the following said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention and a user who uses said invention; and
- f) educating said inventor on an invention scanning process said scanning process comprising identifying a full range of patentable aspects of an invention.

54. **(Withdrawn)** A method of documenting a full range of patentable aspects of an invention, the method comprising:

- a) interviewing an inventor wherein said interview comprises capturing a title of said invention, a brief description of said invention, inventorship of said invention, and bar dates of said invention;
- b) identifying a full range of patentable aspects of the invention; and
- c) recording said interview of said inventor.

55. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 54 wherein said recording is accomplished by any one of the following paper and pencil, computer word processing, tape recorder, and video recorder.

56. **(Withdrawn)** A method of reducing a documented list of inventions to a minimal group of inventions needed to capture a defined intellectual property space wherein said intellectual property space is defined by an assignee's business strategy and business drivers, the method comprising:

- a) capturing said business strategy and business drivers of said assignee by interviewing said assignee;

- b) comparing said business strategy and business drivers to said defined intellectual property space and said documented list of inventions; and
- c) selecting said inventions from said documented list of inventions, which capture said defined intellectual property space, said business strategy and said business drivers.

[THE REST OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]